



– For Immediate Release –

Monday, September 8, 2008

## **IIMPACT detectives investigate South Phoenix drop house**

*Four suspected human smugglers arrested, 13 undocumented aliens discovered*

On September 8, at approximately 10:45 a.m., Phoenix Police officers received a tip about a possible “Chop Shop” at 3134 W. Madison. Officers conducted surveillance and stopped a vehicle seen leaving the house. Inside the vehicle officers discovered the suspect had narcotics and a list containing the names of suspected UDA’s (undocumented aliens). IIMPACT Detectives were called to the scene. Entry was made into the home. Thirteen UDAs were discovered inside the house. Four suspected human smugglers were identified and arrested. They were transported to Phoenix Police Headquarters.

The undocumented aliens included one toddler and two juveniles. All of the juveniles were accompanied by relatives. There were a total of six men and seven women.

IIMPACT detectives believe the UDA’s had just arrived at the home. Officers recovered a shotgun and a baseball bat and it is believed these items were used by the human smugglers to intimidate their captives.

The suspected human smugglers will be charged with human smuggling. The 13 UDA’s are in the custody of ICE.

“This is another example of how Phoenix Police and IIMPACT Detectives may have saved the lives of victims which included small children. These people are in this country illegally but don’t deserve to be extorted for money and assaulted by criminal smuggling rings,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) was formed almost a year ago. It is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of personnel from DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT). As the name implies, local, state and federal police agencies combine forces to impact international human smuggling organizations operating.

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